

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 688

By Coley

A RESOLUTION expressing support for the development of stronger relations between China's Hubei Province and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pride in establishing international relationships with countries around the globe to foster friendship and understanding between the people of Tennessee and other nations; and

WHEREAS, though half-way around the world from each other, the Hubei Province of China and the State of Tennessee have much in common in many areas, including education, trade, geography, and business; and

WHEREAS, Hubei Province and the State of Tennessee are renowned areas of agricultural production, automobile manufacturing, and strategic locations for transportation and trade in their respective countries; and

WHEREAS, home to two of the great rivers of the world, beautiful Hubei Province enjoys the flowing waters of the Yangtze River, and the State of Tennessee delights in the Mississippi River, which rolls by the western border of the State on its way to the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the mountain landscape of Tennessee displayed in the Smoky Mountains, the lower Appalachians, and the Cumberland Plateau echoes the mountainous region of Hubei Province with the Wudang, Mufu, and Da-bei Mountains and the Ershe Plateau; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Tennessee Valley Authority to provide hydropower to Tennessee by dam construction on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers is dwarfed by the harnessing of the mighty Yangtze River in Hubei Province, which is home to the Three Gorges Dam, the largest dam project in the world; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's largest city, Memphis, and the Capital city of Hubei Province, Wuhan, are both strategic locations for trade in their respective countries; and

WHEREAS, Hubei Province and Memphis are two communities supportive of higher education and are home to a number of colleges and universities; Hubei University and the University of Memphis have developed many connections to support cultural exchange and educational learning through the auspices of the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, our mutual self-interests are well-served by encouraging citizens of both countries to become better acquainted with one another and to engage in mutually beneficial activities, particularly in educational systems, social and cultural programs, economic development, and the establishment of long-lasting friendships; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby express our full support for the development of stronger economic, educational and cultural partnerships with China's Hubei Province.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.